

Klamath Network Technical Committee
I&M Advisory and Research Planning Meeting

January 23, 2008
Southern Oregon University
Ashland, Oregon

Meeting Goals

1. Review Klamath I&M Work plan, Staffing Structure, Vital Signs Allocations
2. Scientific and Research Infrastructure in the Klamath Network
3. Klamath Network Climate Change Initiative

1:00 -2:30 Review 2007 Accomplishments and 2008 Staffing & Infrastructure Plan

Good News, Mac Brock mentioned the geologic map for CRLA is complete and he is in the process of getting the final products.

Daniel Sarr led the group through the highpoints of the FY 2007 accomplishments and FY 2008 work plan. He mentioned that Sean Mohren will be serving as acting Network Coordinator while he is on Sabbatical in Ireland. Short discussion ensued for each of the twelve major Inventory, Monitoring, and Water Resources objectives and tasks in the work plan.

All items were approved as written, but during discussion of the protocol development, there was a recognition that vegetation protocols should not proceed without involving and integrating the fire program in some way. Daniel suggested that the two Fire Ecologists in the Network might attend the workshop at Crater Lake in August 2008 to learn about the I&M vegetation and whitebark pine monitoring programs and to discuss ways to better integrate.

Extensive discussion commenced about the status and fate of the Klamath Network Interpretive Partnership. Daniel shared that the FY 2006-funded Invasive Species Interpretive Project with SOU student Mitch Daniel was a failure from a programmatic perspective; he left SOU without finishing the project or his thesis. All NR Chiefs expressed concern over the roles and responsibilities in the project. They suggested that the Interpretive Chiefs should play a more active role in the project, rather than leaving the duties solely to the Network Coordinator. Daniel mentioned that we also need to discuss the roles and responsibilities more clearly with the PI at SOU (Dr. Stewart Janes) to ensure that students get sufficient guidance during future projects.

John Roth mentioned that ideally any interpretive project would employ or have access to two specialists: 1) a text editor, and 2) a graphics editor. The group mentioned that these resources may exist on campus at SOU. Lynne Mager (Redwood) and Bess Perry (KLMN) were also mentioned as a potential resources within in NPS for graphics and text editing, respectively. John also discussed the need for a more formal process for selecting a student.

In FY 2008, the Network hopes to engage one to several undergraduate students in subprojects related to climate change (see below).

A short discussion about beginning the process of developing a cave protocol was discussed. It was clear from the decisions that the Network will need to work with ORCA and LABE prior to determining who will write the protocol to determine what the parks feel is important to monitor. John Roth and Dave Larson have a few ideas on who could write the protocol. Mac Brock mentioned that other parks have caves, however with the limited funding and the fact that caves are a key resource at ORCA and LABE it was concluded that only these parks will be monitoring by the KLMN.

Barbara Alberti brought up the issue of safety in the back country for future crew members associated with I&M monitoring. There is a concern with individuals hiking in the back country do to the amount of illegal activity that is occurring in the park. WHIS will not be able to approve the permits until this issue is addressed. Other parks did not seem to have similar safety issues so it was determined that the Network will work with WHIS this winter to come up with a solution to the issue.

2:45 – 4:30 Science and Research Infrastructure in the Klamath Network

Daniel broached the topic of research infrastructure in the Klamath Network, lamenting that we are often at a competitive disadvantage to larger parks with PhD scientists on staff and USGS field stations in the NPS funding process. All present agreed.

Mac Brock reported on the current status of the Crater Lake Science and Learning Center, and suggested that Dr. Larry Powers may be available to broker some multipark project, but he is on ½ time, with primary responsibilities for Crater Lake NP. Mac suggested we really need a fulltime Research Coordinator or Science Advisor, and we should consider revisiting this staffing request.

Subsequent discussion explored ways that we might increase our capacity to foster research in the future. These included access to nonprofit partnerships for collaborative pursuit of funding. Current options include the Crater Lake Trust, the Lava Beds NHA, and Lassen NHA, and Western National Parks Association. The group agreed that a companion meeting to the KLMN Board of Directors Meeting in December, 2008 would be a good venue to explore the science issue further.

Mac mentioned a data archival project going on between Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) and Crater Lake to house all the parks documents.

The group also discussed fieldwork needs for FY 2008 and beyond:

- Mac mentioned the need to submit requests for Research Permits for all projects for FY 2008. He also suggested short-term housing may be available in the SLC.
- Louis Johnson suggested that housing will be short at Lassen this summer; crew will need to camp.
- The I&M Program will need to buy their own King radios to do their work.

David Larson mentioned the topic of staying current with data mining and population of the NPSpecies and NaturBib databases. The park will be paying to have a person update its records this year. Ensuing discussion followed the means whereby the parks might stay current with data records on an annual basis.

8:00 – 12:00 Klamath Network Climate Change Initiative-

Daniel mentioned the notion of a multifaceted climate change project to be developed by the Network this year. Daniel offered that Sean Mohren and Dennis Odion could organize a climate change scoping workshop, with Kathy Jope serving as Facilitator, and the I&M Program paying travel. Discussion ensued about the project and potential workshop, with eventual consensus that a scoping meeting involving the Superintendents, Natural Resource Chiefs, and Interpretive Chiefs would be a very positive thing. They expressed concern that planning should begin immediately to allow a meeting in early May, if possible. It was also determined that prior to the workshop, we should develop a list of broad categories that could be used to help individuals attending the meeting to focus on more species questions related to those broad categories.